



MEDIA ADVISORY

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR NEW FAMILIES FIRST GUIDELINES PROGRAM TO FOLLOW FEDERAL TANF REQUIREMENTS

WHAT: The Department of Human Services is holding a public hearing on Tennessee's new Families First rules. Members of the public are encouraged to read the new rules and offer their comments and suggestions. The rules can be found on the DHS website at: http://state.tn.us/humanserv/rules/rr_3.htm

WHEN: Tuesday, August 21
6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Lowell Thomas State Office Building
Conference Room
225 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 210
Jackson

MORE: Families First, Tennessee's welfare reform program, began in September 1996, under a federal waiver and replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. The federal waiver expired June 30, 2007. DHS currently operates the program in compliance with the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Families First provides temporary cash benefits to families who have children, and are experiencing financial difficulties. These benefits are time-limited to 60 months in a participant's lifetime.

The Families First program emphasizes work, training, and personal responsibility. To be eligible for the program, participants must agree to follow a Personal Responsibility Plan (PRP). As part of the PRP, the participant agrees to keep immunizations and health checks up to date for their children, keep their children in school, co-operate with Child Support Services, and participate in a work/training program for at least 30 hours per week unless they are exempt.

The hearing will also cover the new Medicaid de-linking policy.

To learn more about Families First, visit: http://state.tn.us/humanserv/adfam/afs_tanf.htm

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